

two sides. This is the accepted communication channel under the informalized relation between the two sides.

For years, these two organizations have exchanged phone calls and letters to conduct necessary contacts and communication. In 1996, however, the Chinese mainland unexpectedly launched a military threat against Taiwan and unilaterally suspended the functions of the two organizations for more than three years. It is a situation we deeply regret.

Under the influence of democracy and freedom, Taiwan is becoming increasingly liberalized and advanced. Such an environment has exerted a direct impact on the SEF to be more flexible and open, when holding consultations with ARATS. Let me assure you that the ROC government is fully confident and sincere in resolving any political differences between the two sides via consultations. Even so, we will not hold talks with the Chinese mainland under such unfriendly conditions as political inequality, diplomatic interference, and military threat. National security and dignity are what I myself and the SEF personnel constantly must bear in mind, when we exchange contacts with the Chinese mainland. I believe that these two criterias are also the two foremost concerns of the people of Taiwan.

In recent years, I have observed that Beijing has been withdrawing from the position that "we can talk about anything" toward a parochial mentality that "we can only talk about political issues." This confuses us.

I would like to take this opportunity to call on Beijing to return to the consultation table as soon as possible, to establish mutual trust between the two sides through consultations, and to adopt necessary and positive measures to insure the peace and stability of the Taiwan Strait.

Fourth, the two sides should expand items and the scope of exchanges and cooperations and treat each other with sincerity through reciprocity, in order to ultimately normalize bilateral relations. During the past 50 years, the two sides have accumulated individual experiences of development that can be exchanged to assist each other. In the past, we have proposed that the two sides conduct exchanges and cooperate in the areas of agriculture, scientific technology, economic development, and rule by law. We have also suggested the two sides deal with the Asian financial crisis together, in order to jointly contribute to the prosperity and stability of the Asia-Pacific region.

Unfortunately, we have not had any positive response from Beijing, to date. In the future, we will continue to encourage and persuade the Chinese mainland to pragmatically respond to our constructive proposals. We will also unfold various cooperation plans with Beijing to increase mutual trust, achieve consensus, and ultimately attain the goal of establishing normalized relations between the two sides.

Ladies and gentlemen, during the past four decades, the ROC has managed to create miracles in economic development and political democratization, under unfavorable natural environments and conditions. Naturally, we wish to achieve more, and it is our hope that we can bridge the gap of the Taiwan Strait in economic and political developments by appropriate interaction and constructive dialogue between the both sides of the Taiwan Strait. This will help us to realize the natural reunification of both sides in a peaceful and democratic way.

At the threshold of the twenty-first century, with the Cold War era ended, I sincerely hope that the Chinese mainland will discard the remnants of the Cold War "zero-sum" thinking and expand their horizons to join us in building a peaceful and stable rela-

tionship for both sides of the Taiwan Strait, under conditions which respect the political status quo of both sides.

As time is pressing, let me finish my speech here. Thank you very much. And I wish all the distinguished participants of this conference health and confirmed success.

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT REGARDING ASSISTANCE TO KOSOVAR REFUGEES

The huge number of Kosovar casualties and refugees from the Kosovo area resulting from the NATO-Yugoslavia conflict in the Balkans have captured close world-wide attention. From the very outset, the government of the ROC has been deeply concerned and we are carefully monitoring the situation's development.

We in the Republic of China were pleased to learn last week that Yugoslavia President Slobodan Milosevic has accepted the peace plan for the Kosovo crisis proposed by the Group of Eight countries, for which specific peace agreements are being worked out.

The Republic of China wholeheartedly looks forward to the dawning of peace in the Balkans. For more than two months, we have been concerned about the plight of the hundreds of thousands of Kosovar refugees who were forced to flee to other countries, particularly from the vantage point of our emphasis on protecting human rights. We thereby organized a Republic of China aid mission to Kosovo. Carrying essential relief items, the mission made a special trip to the refugee camps in Macedonia to lend a helping hand.

Today, as we anticipate a critical moment of forth-coming peace, I hereby make the following statement to the international community on behalf of all the nationals of the Republic of China:

As a member of the world community committed to protecting and promoting human rights, the Republic of China would like to develop further the spirit of humanitarian concern for the Kosovar refugees living in exile as well as for the war-torn areas in dire need of reconstruction. We will provide a grant aid equivalent to about US \$300 million. The aid will consist of the following:

1. Emergency support for food, shelters, medical care, and education, etc. for the Kosovar refugees, living in exile in neighboring countries.

2. Short-term accommodations for some of the refugees in Taiwan, with opportunities of job training in order for them to be better equipped for the restoration of their homeland upon their return.

3. Furthermore, support the rehabilitation of the Kosovo area in coordination with international long-term recovery programs when the peace plan is implemented.

We earnestly hope that the above-mentioned aid will contribute to the promotion of the peace plan for Kosovo. I wish all the refugees an early return to their safe and peaceful homes.

ROC TO DONATE US\$300 MILLION TO HELP KOSOVAR REFUGEES

Taipei, June 7 (CNA) President Lee Teng-hui announced Monday that the Republic of China will donate US\$300 million to help Kosovar refugees rebuild their homes.

Lee made the announcement at a news conference held after chairing a meeting on the Kosovo problems. The meeting was attended by Vice President Lien Chan, Premier Vincent Siew, Foreign Minister Jason Hu, and Ying Chung-wen, secretary-general of the National Security Council.

Lee said the ROC, as a member of the international community, has consistently been concerned about world affairs and prob-

lems. "We want to play an active role in the world arena and work together with other members of the world society in maintaining world peace," Lee said, adding that the aid to displaced Kosovar refugees is purely based on humanitarianism.

Asked about his view on possible backlash from mainland China, Lee said humanitarian aid to Kosovar refugees is a common goal of all civilized countries.

"Since the two sides of the Taiwan Strait co-exist in the international community, we should make joint efforts to promote international peace and stability," Lee said.

The president urged mainland China to throw support behind the ROC's aid drive, adding that he hopes mainland China will also take concrete steps to assist hundreds of thousands of displaced Kosovar refugees.

Lee's announcement came a day after Macedonian Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski arrived in Taipei on Sunday for a six-day official visit.

This is the 33-year-old Macedonian prime minister's first trip to the ROC since the two countries forged formal diplomatic ties in January this year.

Macedonia has been burdened by a large number of ethnic Albanian refugees from the neighboring Yugoslav province of Kosovo. (By Sofia Wu)

WOMEN'S SOCCER

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, as we watch the U.S. Women's Soccer Team advance to the final rounds of the World Cup, we are reminded of two teams from our district, High Point Central High School and Ragsdale High School, which both are 1999 North Carolina High School Soccer Champions.

High Point Central captured the 1A/2A North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSSA) Women's Soccer Championship. The Bison ended their season with an outstanding record of 19-3-3. We congratulate Mandi Tinsley, Katie Copeland, Jenny Thomas, Jenni Tensley, Lee Culp, Lindsay Holbrook, Tina Tinsley, Graham Magill, Andrea Brown, Lindsay Husted, Leigh Spencer, Lemeh Horace, Jessica Harrison, Erica Bell, Jennifer Applegate, Sarah Bencini, Jrlly White, Krystion Obie. A few people who helped lead them along the way were Head Coach David Upchurch, Assistant Coach Pete Chumbley, and managers Scott Salter and Robert White. Central's Athletic Director is Gary Whitman.

Ragsdale High School won the NCHSSA Women's 3A State Championship. The Tigers ended their impressive season with a record of 22-2-4. We congratulate Cindy Mullinix, Julia Deaton, Danielle Brown, Jamie Davis, Jordan Allison, Erin Beeson, Brooke Dewitt, Lydia Gibson, Holly Walker, Jen Ryback, Michele Andrejco, Stacy Hopkins, KK Dalrymple, Michelle Pizzurro, Alysha Hall, Laura Stafford, Kellie Dixon, Emily Foster, and manager Sandra Simoes. Contributing to Ragsdale's win was Coach Brian Braswell, Trainer Josh Beaumont and Athletic Director is Mike Raybon.

The Sixth District of North Carolina is proud of both these teams for all their hard work and dedication. Congratulations to the girls at High Point Central and Ragsdale. Now let's hope

that the U.S. Women's Team can win the World Cup!

THE DRUG-FREE SCHOOL ZONE
ENFORCEMENT ACT

HON. JAMES E. ROGAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, as you know, our nation's schools have become playgrounds for drug dealers. Every day, thousands of children get hooked on drugs in and around our local schools. Meanwhile, our local communities struggle to hold back the rising tide of drug crime. Sadly, local efforts to protect our nation's school zones have received little direct federal support.

As a former gang murder prosecutor in Los Angeles County, who prosecuted drug dealers who got children hooked on drugs, I know the limitations our local governments face in their war on drugs. That is why I am introducing the bipartisan Drug-Free School Zone Enforcement Act.

The Drug-Free School Zone Enforcement Act will provide \$150 million of the Safe and Drug Free Schools money appropriated each year to local governments, so that they may take steps to reduce drug crimes within a one-mile radius of any school. In addition, this bill will allow communities to hire additional law enforcement agents and prosecutors, and coordinate drug enforcement efforts with state and federal agencies. Finally, this bill will require that 95 percent of these funds must go to local communities.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time to show that Congress means business in fighting the drug war on a local level. As we begin to focus on our priorities on education and keeping drugs away from our children, I urge that Members join me in supporting the Drug-Free School Zone Enforcement Act.

BILL AND AVA SIMMONS CELEBRATE THEIR 72ND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. DAVID D. PHELPS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bill and Ava Simmons of West Frankfort, IL. On June 18th of this year, Ava and Bill celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary. The Simmons have been residents of the beautiful city of West Frankfort since the early 1900's and are long time members of the First Baptist Church in West Frankfort. Mr. Simmons recently retired as owner of the Stone Funeral Home, when he was 92 years young. His wife was a stenographer for an attorney from Benton and worked for the State of Illinois during the Depression.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take the time to let all of my fellow Members of Congress and the nation know of this most impressive and momentous occasion. On the floor of this Congress we always hear Members describing the decline of family values and personal responsibility in this country; this is why I am so

pleased to share the news of the Simmons 72nd anniversary. Their 72-year commitment to each other proves that there are many good and decent Americans in this country, who like the Simmons, are committed to their families, values, and their marriages. I would like to wish the Simmons a very joyful anniversary and a happy and healthy future.

TRIBUTE TO THE HON. MARGARET DOUD

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call your attention and that of my House colleagues to an important historical milestone in my northern Michigan congressional district. This month the City of Mackinac Island, a unique blend of state park and local municipality and a special mix of important archaeological sites and impressive tourist attractions, celebrates its centennial. Tonight the city council of Mackinac Island will both formally acknowledge this milestone and honor a remarkable public servant, island resident Margaret M. Doud, who has served as mayor for 25 of the city's 100-year history.

The community that Margaret Doud both leads and serves is not just unique in my 1st Congressional District. It is an important national resource with a rich history as a spiritual home and meeting place of Native American tribes, a way-station in the European exploration of the Upper Midwest, an important military site during America's two wars with England, a resource center for fur and fish trade, and now a temperate haven for tourists in the heat of summer.

Mackinac Island is the home of memorable fudge and the majestic Grand Hotel. It is circled and criss-crossed by rural lanes that in summer are used by residents and visitors on foot, bicycle, or horse and buggy—but not cars, not since motorized vehicles were banned in 1898. It has served as summer home for Michigan's governor, the site of numerous business and political conferences, and the backdrop for movie cameras in the romantic Christopher Reeve and Jane Seymour movie, *Somewhere in Time*. For the everyday cameras of tourists, the island's backdrop includes the magnificent span of the Mackinac Bridge. The island is a fair destination for sailors who race up Lake Michigan in the Chicago-to-Mackinac race and up Lake Huron in the Port Huron-to-Mackinac event.

The island takes its name from the Native American word "Michilimackinac," which means "Land of the Giant Turtle," a reference to the island's humped shape, like a turtle rising from the northern end of the Lake Huron. In Indian lore, the island was the first land to appear above water after the Great Flood, and a place of origin for native peoples.

You can see, Mr. Speaker, that while it's true Margaret Doud may serve as mayor over a small population of about 500 permanent residents, she also guides a community that must constantly address a host of intensely conflicting land use demands. The effort to accommodate tourists from all over the world must be balanced against limited resources and the need to protect its unique historic and

archaeological sites. This means that each question of housing for seasonal workers, for additional accommodations and for marina expansion is posed against the question of protecting what is truly a national treasure.

Mayor Doud has served the island well in addressing these questions, Mr. Speaker. I ask my House colleagues to join me in recognizing her efforts and offering our sincerest appreciation for her dedication and efforts in guiding this island community into the next millennium. Under Margaret's guidance, and with the advice and assistance of the island's city council, I know the island is well prepared for its next 100 years.

CENTURY 21 ROBINSON REALTY, INC. ACHIEVES THE QUALITY SERVICE PINNACLE AWARD

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 1999

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate a business in my District for its outstanding customer service. Recently, Century 21 Robinson Realty, Inc. was honored by the Century 21 Real Estate Corporation with its Quality Service Pinnacle Award.

The Pinnacle Award is given only to those Century 21 offices that deliver the best in consistent quality service at the highest level. Century 21 Robinson Realty, Inc. certainly fits this criteria.

Additionally, on June 29, 1999, the Daily Post-Athenian announced that Century 21 Robinson Realty was named as the "Best Real Estate Firm" in its "People's Choice" survey. This survey was placed in the DPA for readers to choose their favorite in a number of different categories.

Charles Robinson, founder and principal broker of Robinson Realty, has been involved in the real estate industry for over 30 years. He is a respected businessman in the Athens community and has helped countless families realize the "American Dream" of homeownership.

Robinson Realty affiliated with the Century 21 Real Estate Corporation in 1977, and has been recognized with numerous awards over the years.

Mr. Speaker, Century 21 Robinson Realty, Inc. is truly a family business. Charles and Linda Robinson work together with their son, General Manager Mike Robinson and daughter, Office Coordinator Paula Robinson Scarbrough. The Robinson family in Athens is synonymous with the real estate business.

I am especially proud customer service is the number one priority at Century 21 Robinson Realty. For the past six years, Robinson Realty has earned the prestigious Quality Service Award. This fact says a great deal about the professional real estate agents that make up Robinson Realty.

Robinson Realty has combined real estate experience totalling almost 200 years. There are not many businesses that can offer their customers so much experience.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Robinson Family on this important occasion. I would also like to congratulate the professional agents that make up the Robinson Realty "Gold Team." They are: Barbara Reed,